

# **State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities**

**Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b**

**NHDOE, Room 15**

**4:30pm – 7:00pm**

**May 4, 2016**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attended: SAC Members**

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Violetta Lortie, Rep. Jack Balcom, Jean Parsons, Maureen Shields, Lisa Hatz, Janet Reed, Lisa Beaudion, Lisa Hatz, Anne Davis, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Mike Pinard, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Candace Cole-McCrea, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Janet Reed, Jason Henry, Jean Parsons, Karen Rosenberg, Donna Curtin, Patrick Curtin, Eileen Mullen-Kennedy, Maureen Shields, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Jacqueline Kelleher, Heidi Cloutier

### **Guest(s):**

Naomi Sheffield, nominee, Rivier College

### **Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests**

- Maureen began the meeting
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

### **Nominations:**

SAC nominee are Invited to a SAC meeting, after attending the meeting if the individual is interested in becoming a member, a nomination is made by SAC Members.

Naomi Sheffield from Rivier University introduced herself; she is a teacher in the teacher preparation program at Rivier for the last 8 years and is interested in becoming a SAC member on behalf of a University.

Eileen Mullen-Kennedy made a motion to nominate Naomi Sheffield to the State Advisory Committee in the role of University representative. Jean Parsons seconded the nomination. All in favor, none opposed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of April 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  - Bonnie Dunham made the motion to approve the minutes; Jason Henry seconded. 17 approved 4 abstentions. Motion approved.

## **Public Comment & Announcements**

Maureen reminded the SAC members that we have training with John Copenhaver from TAES on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am-1pm at the NHDOE, Room 15. Eight members will be in attendance.

**Legislative Updates** Bonnie reviewed her Legislative Updates with SAC members.

Rep. Jack Balcom: HB1644 relative to screening and treatment for dyslexia and related disorders and establishing a reading specialist in the DOE, will be going back before the Senate on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Jack is prime sponsor and looks like it might be passed tomorrow and the Governor to sign in the next couple of weeks.

SB 533 relative to implementation of the Medicaid managed care program. It is critical to your representatives and senators for local control not transferred to area agencies; fight to prevent implementation of step 2, important when students transfer from high school to secondary transition. Recommend ought to pass with amendment. Call prior to next Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Check the General court website to see most amended version, and when hearings are scheduled.

SB 439 establishing a commission to study the shortage of nurses and other skilled health care workers for home health care services. There is a national push to have all nurses holding their Bachelor's Degree. Nurses with a 2 year degree will be out of work, we need to decide what is good for New Hampshire. A representative from SAC is on the committee.

## **Voc Rehab Update ~ Lisa Hatz**

No significant updates as we have not finalized the contracts as of today hopefully will be approved by July and will have updates at that time.

Maureen informed Lisa that she is already seeing the effects of her work all the way down to the ground level and "Thank You."

Lisa advised SAC that they are working on areas that have been problematic and it is good to have discussions around expectations and services. Glad to hear people are hearing great things.

## **Update from the Bureau of Special Education ~ Santina**

No Bureau updates as Santina is away at a conference.

## **Presentation of the New Hampshire Rules on the Education of Children with Disabilities**

Bonnie distributed a twenty-eight (28) page document for SAC members to review and bring comments, issues and concerns to the June meeting.

Bonnie went through to highlight the changes:

- Typo errors, citations incomplete
- Included explanations in the right hand side
- Page 3 continues with minor changes / corrections
- Gray shaded boxes is Bonnie's input, not the Rules that have changes
- Has found additional typo errors
- Ed 1105.02 . . .typographical error, language is inconsistent
- At least 95% of changes from input meetings have been incorporated into the Rules; also received written input which all did not see.

- Page 5 proposed changes to update the rules – language no longer used
- Page 6 career vocational technical educational; due to input kept is all
- Philbrook center removed no longer there
- Rate setting removed as set by DHHS (room and board); the Department isn't setting the rate
  - The department doesn't have the authority to set the rates for room and board
    - (find out from Santina why she doesn't have the authority)
  - Outcome is of concern for private providers
  - As soon as this rule goes into effect DHHS will set the room and board rates which are lower rates than NHDOE sets.
  - Revenue for private providers will go down and will cause a problem
  - Janet Reed to gather additional information from more knowledgeable individuals and bring back to SAC; bring data for next meeting.
- Agree all typo errors to be corrected:

Jean Parsons made a motion, Jason Henry seconded, all in approved, and all typographical errors should be corrected.

- Page 7 proposed changes to definitions, gray area . . . additional definitions that Bonnie is going to raise.
- Page 8 proposed changes related to referral, evaluations and eligibility determination
- Doesn't believe that anyone gave input on Developmental Delay, changes made after input meetings (?) Gray box indicated Bonnie's issues/concerns.
- Page 9 an individual knowledgeable (classroom teacher needs to be there)
  - Any suggested language, send to Barbara Dauphinais and she will send out to members.
- Changes to Educational placement, changes to early childhood table and environments table.
  - Biggest change in placement section is children receiving Home Instruction.
  - Home Instruction, Bureau cannot override the IEP Team determination for home instruction.
- Best addition is equipment, materials and assistive technology.
- Nothing outlined here; foster parents are the educational surrogate parent, then take the class and flunk, need to assign a surrogate parent. Makes educational decisions only.
  - NH's 9 hour training is the best in the country and will do refresher courses also.
- The Department has done an excellent effort to bring this together for all stakeholders to provide input. Kudos to the Bureau for providing these public input sessions.
- Parent Information Center will have a meeting around the NH Rules
- Send all information to Barbara as soon as possible and come prepared at the next SAC meeting to come to a consensus on approval.

Please come prepared for the June meeting to move quickly through the process in order to provide public comment on the NH Rules.

### **Draft of By-Laws**

Revised version was sent out for all SAC members to review, will not vote on until after the training on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Do we need to change anything in the draft format? Not at this time.

Save for the September Retreat to approve and John Copenhaver will return in the fall for additional training.

## **New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment**

Donna Curtin

Patrick won a scholarship to UMASS Boston.

Patrick was reading an article Boston Globe which mentioned Lynda Thistle-Elliott with regards to the homeless rate down in New Hampshire. Linda advised SAC members that there were 3,336 homeless in 2014 and the rate has gone up. Student population has gone down but the homeless rate has not.

Lisa Beaudion

Posted on Family Voices website; U.S. probe into Georgia Special Ed Program could have national impact. Read the article at:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/us-probe-into-georgia-special-ed-program-could-have-national-impact/2015/08/05/07c1a44a-3630-11e5-9d0f-7865a67390ee\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/us-probe-into-georgia-special-ed-program-could-have-national-impact/2015/08/05/07c1a44a-3630-11e5-9d0f-7865a67390ee_story.html)

Heidi Cloutier

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, 11am-3pm, Derryfield Park in Manchester.

The 2016 Conference on School Support is in August with 20 youth leadership strands to attend free of charge.

Jason Henry

Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm; providers are meeting to talk about programs for inmates for services for the inmates to provide transition into society.

6:29 pm Janet Reed made a motion to adjourn, Jean Parsons seconded. All in agreement. Motion passes.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, June 1, 2016 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15

### **Agenda**

- NH Rules
- Propose new Chair for 2016-2017